

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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Mr. President, and referred back to the Legislature for its further consideration. I have no amendments to the resolution.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Raikes, you are recognized to open.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. As mentioned, LR 31 is to approve a gift of land from the Burlington Northern Railroad to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. I'll briefly describe the situation. Burlington Northern Railroad impacted wetlands in its development of its Hobson Yards, which are on the west edge of Lincoln. They then acquired the property which is the subject of this resolution. They restored it to a wetlands state and now are offering it to the Game and Parks Commission as an addition to the Jack Sinn Memorial Wildlife Management Area, and this is a wetland area. Some of you may have been by. It's on either side of Highway 77 just south of Ceresco. Now I passed out a couple of maps which...which give you some details. The Jack Sinn Wildlife Management Area is, before this addition, 1,177 acres. To give you a little more detail, last year the Game and Parks purchased 80 acres which was added to this to arrive at the total of 1,177. The cost of that I believe was \$950 an acre. This land that would be offered as a gift is 85.52 acres in three parcels and that's detailed on the map that you have. An appraisal is not required for a gift but if you assume this land is approximately equal in value to what was purchased a year ago, \$950 an acre would make the gift worth something in the order of \$81,250. This would bring the total acreage of the Jack Sinn area up to 1,262.65 acres. To anticipate some possible questions you might have, there is no controlled shooting area within at least 15 miles of this...of this plot of land. The plot of land does have an abandoned railroad right-of-way but it has not been preserved. It has been turned over to a landowner and there is not something there that you could use in the event you were thinking about a trail or an extension of a trail. Something about property taxes, the property tax paid last year on this 85.52 acres, which is the subject of the gift, was \$400 or about \$4.70 an acre. The...last year the Game and Parks Commission paid in lieu of taxes on the...on Jack Sinn Wildlife Management Area amounting to \$7,587 or about \$7 an acre. If this gift is accepted, Game and Parks would continue to pay in lieu of taxes. The policy is